

had in February, 2000, approved an expenditure of Rs. 77.62 crore by the National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) relating to Parbati Hydro-Electric Project Stage-II (800 MW) for the following activities:—

- (i) Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Bidding documents.
- (ii) Undertaking infrastructure development.
- (iii) Reimbursement of expenditure incurred by Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board on the Parbati Basin Projects.

An expenditure of Rs. 74.09 crores has been incurred on the Project upto 31.3.2001. Budgetary provision of Rs. 180 crore has been kept for the year 2001-2002. After undertaking additional Investigations in respect of Parbati Hydro-electric Project Stage-II, the revised DPR was submitted to the Central Electricity Authority for approval. Central Electricity Authority has accorded Techno-economic Clearance subject to certain conditions.

Investment decision of the Government for construction of the Parbati Hydro-electric Project Stage-II can be processed only after obtaining environment clearance for this project from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for which NHPC has submitted its proposal with the requisite Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) studies and Environment Management Plan (EMP) to the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Infrastructure work for the project is under execution.

The Project is scheduled to be completed in eight years from the date of commencement of work.

**Outstanding Electricity Bills of APEB against union Government**

4344, SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the amounts of electricity bills of Andhra Pradesh Board outstanding against Union Government and its Undertaking etc., and

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(b) whether keeping in view the power crisis in Andhra Pradesh, the Union Government would instruct the concerned authorities to pay the electricity bills to Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) According to the information furnished by the Transmission Corporation of A.P., there are no outstanding dues against Central Government Departments. However, an amount of 8465.53 lakhs is outstanding against Central Government Public Sector Undertakings as on 31.3.2001.

(b) Consequent to the resolution adopted in the Conference of the Chief Ministers/Power Ministers held on 3rd March, 2001, an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Shri M.S. Ahluwalia, Member (Energy), Planning Commission has been constituted recently to recommend measures for one time settlement of outstanding dues of State Electricity Board towards the Central Public Undertakings as also the dues from the CPSUs to State Power Utilities.

**Financial assistance to States committed for power sector reforms**

4345. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has evolved a scheme to provide financial assistance to States committed to reforms in power sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any State especially Maharashtra has been allocated fund for accelerated power development programme during the last one year; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Power Finance Corporation (PFC) provides both technical and financial assistance to the reforming States. The details of such assistance are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 192, Annexure